

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7946
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 36834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, XT, IT, FR
SUBJ: PCI PARTICIPATION IN WEU: IMPLICATIONS FOR FRENCH
DOMESTIC POLITICS AND US POSITION

REF: A. PARIS 36545 DTG 091857Z DEC '76. B. USNATO
6657 031719Z DEC '76.

1. SUMMARY: WE WILL PROBABLY BE CONFRONTED IN THE
VERY NEAR FUTURE WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO EXPLAIN
WHETHER THE US (THROUGH NATO) WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO THE WEU DESPITE THE PRESENCE
OF PCI REPRESENTATIVES ON THE WEU DEFENSE AND ARMA-
MENTS COMMITTEE. IT HAS BEEN A STANDARD FEATURE OF
THE US POSITION IN FRANCE TO SAY THAT IF THE PS WERE
EVER TO COME TO POWER IN COALITION WITH THE PCF, SUCH
A COALITION COULD NOT EXPECT CONTINUED COLLABORATION
ON MILITARY SUBJECTS WITH THE US. WE WILL THUS NEED
TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND IN THE NEAR FUTURE AS TO WHETHER
THE PCI ROLE IN THE WEU IS GOING TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE
USG. OUR RESPONSE TO THAT QUERY IS CERTAIN TO HAVE
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FRENCH DOMESTIC SCENE. ACTION
REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. REFERENCE A POINTS OUT EMBOFFS ARE ALREADY

RECEIVING QUERIES AS TO WHAT US REACTION TO PCI PARTICIPATION ON WEU COMMITTEES WILL BE. WE CAN STALL RESPONSES TO THIS FOR A SHORT PERIOD, BUT SOONER OR LATER WILL HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION.

3. THE CONUNDRUM IS THIS: IF WE CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE WEU THROUGH NATO (PROVISION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION) BOTH PS AND PCF VOICES WILL ARGUE THAT THIS IS EVIDENCE THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT AND COOPERATE WITH A FRENCH GOVERNMENT FORMED BY A SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION. IN ADDITION, IF SUCH AN ASSUMPTION IS DRAWN, WITH OR WITHOUT A US RESPONSE, THE MAJORITY IN FRANCE (WHETHER THOSE SUPPORTING GIS-CARD OR CHIRAC) WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE WE HAVE WEAKENED THEIR POSITION AND STRENGTHENED THAT OF THE LEFT.

4. WE CONCLUDE THEN THAT WHILE WE MAY HAVE A NUMBER OF WEEKS OR EVEN MONTHS TO DEAL WITH THE TECHNICAL QUESTION OF THE CONTINUED SUPPLY OF NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO THE WEU (SEE REF B) IN POLITICAL TERMS WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF DEFERRING A POSITION ON THE ISSUE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: A. FOR ROME: EMBASSY'S EARLIEST POSSIBLE REACTION TO ISSUES POSED WOULD BE APPRECIATED. B. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT LINE TO TAKE ON QUERIES FROM BOTH THE PRESS AND THE POLITICAL ELEMENTS WITH WHOM WE DEAL IN PARIS.
RUSH

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